

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, District No. 5

Members: Mr. Milton Farley, District No. 1
Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, District No. 2
Mr. William E. Crosby, District No. 3
Mr. Charles E. Davis, District No. 4
Mrs. Judy C. Mims, District No. 6
Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr. District No. 7
Mr. Henry L. Richardson, Jr., District No. 8
Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio

A Special meeting of the COMMITTEE ON FINANCE met on Monday, May 21, 2001, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 North Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 7:52 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, Councilmember District No. 5, Chairman; Mr. Milton Farley, Councilmember District No. 1; Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, District No. 2; Mr. William E. Crosby, Councilmember District No. 3; Mr. Charles E. Davis, Councilmember District No. 4; Mrs. Judy C. Mims, Councilmember District No. 6; Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., Councilmember District No. 7; Mr. Henry L. Richardson, Jr., Councilmember District No. 8; Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio; and Mr. Rich Lingenfelter, Deputy County Attorney.

The requirements of the Freedom of Information Act have been complied with by posting the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting of Berkeley County Council at the entrance to the Berkeley County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, and a copy of such notice was mailed to all Councilmembers and the News media.

Chairman Vaughn called the meeting to order.

A) Ms. Marie Wauben, Human Resources Director, Re: Additional Funds for Tort Insurance Liability Policy.

Ms. Wauben directed the Committee to the letter from her requesting \$4,961 to cover an increase for the Tort Liability Policy.

Mr. Rozier asked Ms. Wauben when she was advised of the increase?

Ms. Wauben explained she received notification with the last monthly budget report. The estimation for the premium was \$146,640, but the premium was \$151,601.

Councilmember Crosby moved for approval; the motion was seconded by Councilmember Farley; passed by voice vote of the Committee.

B) Ms. Ginger Hamilton, Berkeley County Tax Collector, Re: Amended request for additional funds.

Councilmember Spooner moved to approve the \$8000 for postage; the motion was seconded by Councilmember Crosby; passed by voice vote of the Committee.

C) James H. Rozier, Jr., Berkeley County Supervisor, Re: Presentation of 2001-2002 Budget.

Mr. Rozier addressed the Committee by first stating the current 2000-2001 Budget was \$34,569,225, and the budget being recommended for 2001-2002 was \$34,713,273. There was an increase of \$144,000, less than ½ of 1%. Mr. Rozier stated there had been an extra \$100,000 added to the contingency fund because there are anticipated shortages due to budget cuts. Therefore, the contingency fund will be \$400,000. The budget was balanced without a tax increase.

Councilmember Spooner asked if there were any new employees in the budget?

Mr. Rozier explained there were five new employees. The budget reflects a Finger Print Expert in the Sheriff's Office, Internet Specialist for the Website, Heavy Equipment Operator for the equipment purchased this year, Staff CPA, and a Plans Examiner. In order to conserve funds, hiring of these positions will be suspended as follows: two of the positions will start in August, one in September, and two in January 2002. In regards to the Hiring & Spending Freeze, all positions must come before Mr. Rozier for approval before being posted.

Councilmember Crosby questioned if the budget included an increase in salary?

Mr. Rozier indicated there is a 2% merit increase included in the budget. Mr. Rozier made a recommendation to the Committee to be allowed to challenge the employees to be conservative with budget funds in an effort to raise the 2%.

Councilmember Spooner asked if there were any new revenue sources in the budget?

Mr. Rozier indicated there was; one being the National Forest Special Funds, Berkeley County will use \$100,000 of those funds for the Planning and Design of the new park at Lake Moultrie. There has been \$650,000 identified in that fund, 20% must be used on parks and recreation. Therefore, an additional \$25,000 will be used at Cypress Gardens.

Mr. Rozier explained the Associations of Counties presented their concerns about cuts in the Local Government Fund. The House and the Senate restored the fund. Therefore, it looks positive there will be help from the Local Government Fund.

Mr. Rozier reported the following top five funded departments in the County, which received funding from 1991 – 2000. In 1991 the Sheriff's Office received \$2,849,000 and in 2000 it was \$8,541,000; three times what it was nine years before. The next department Road

and Bridges had increased from \$1,523,000 in 1991 to \$3,809,000 in 2000. The third highest funded department was EMS \$1,226,000 in the year 1991 to \$3,310,000 in 2000. Public Buildings was next with \$1,602,000 from \$779,000 in the year 1991. The Library was the last department with \$612,000 in 1991 to \$1,473,000 in the year 2000. The total budget was only 1.9 times what it was in 1991; therefore, the overall budget has been funded less and increases have gone to those five departments.

Councilmember Mims questioned if there would be a workshop for the 2001-2002 budget?

Chairman Vaughn stated if there was something that Council wanted to discuss, they needed to bring suggestions to the Finance Committee next month. Chairman Vaughn stated the Committee would take the budget as information.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:

Committee on Justice and Public Safety, Councilmember Milton Farley, Chairman.

Councilmember Farley reported the Committee met earlier tonight; on the agenda was a request from the Coroner for additional funds totaling \$9,600; the Committee approved and Councilmember Farley so moved; the motion was seconded by Councilmember Crosby; and passed by voice of the Committee.

Councilmember Crosby moved to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Councilmember Richardson; and passed by voice vote of the Committee.

The Committee was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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There will be a Special Meeting of the COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, on Monday May 21, 2001, in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 North Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, following the Committee on Justice and Public Safety, and the Committee on Planning and Development, scheduled to begin at 6:50 p.m.

AGENDA

- A.** Ms. Marie Wauben, Human Resources Director, Re: Additional funds for Tort Insurance Liability Policy.
- B.** Ms. Ginger Hamilton, Berkeley County Tax Collector, Re: Amended request for additional funds.
- C.** James H. Rozier, Jr., Berkeley County Supervisor, Re: Presentation of 2001-2002 Budget.
- D.** REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:
 - 1. Committee on Justice and Public Safety
Council Member Milton Farley, Chairman
 - a. Coroner: Additional funds.

S/Barbara B. Austin
Clerk to Council